Date	HeadLine	Outlet
01/23/2013	Report: Chesapeake to help EPA with hydraulic fracturing study	NewsOK.com (Oklahoman) - Online
01/23/2013	HOW TO KEEP PROMISES TO EXPAND ENERGY PRODUCTION AND CREATE AMERICAN JOBS	Power Engineering - Online
01/23/2013	Chesapeake Opens Drill Site to EPA	WRKO-AM - Online
01/23/2013	Sir David Attenborough, Naturalist And Filmmaker, Calls Humanity 'A Plague On The Earth'	Huffington Post, The
01/23/2013	Report on EPA and Range Resources omitted key facts	Houston Chronicle - Online
01/23/2013	APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region	Utility Products Magazine - Online
01/23/2013	AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP ("APGI-0") RPC INC ("RES-N") - APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For - Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region	Electric Light and Power
01/23/2013	Different Rules for Plutocrats	Huffington Post, The
01/23/2013	What's the fuss about fracking?	Fort Collins Coloradoan - Online, The
01/23/2013	BLOG: Power Play - Energy Blog: Report: Chesapeake to help EPA with hydraulic fracturing study	Oklahoman
01/23/2013	Chesapeake to Host EPA In Study of Fracking Risk	Wall Street Journal - Online

Report: Chesapeake to help EPA with hydraulic fracturing study NewsOK.com (Oklahoman) - Online

01/23/2013

on January 23, 2013M at 6:26 pm

Chesapeake Energy Corp. will let the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conduct extensive tests at one of its well sites to determine if hydraulic fracturing is safe, the Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday.

The process, commonly known as fracking, is used to extract oil and natural gas from dense rock like shale, but it has been dogged by concerns that it contaminates drinking water.

Chesapeake, one of the nation's leading oil and gas producers, will allow the EPA to sample water at one of its well sites before and after the well is drilled, an Obama administration official told the Journal.

A Chesapeake spokesman declined to comment on the report Wednesday night.

Texas-based Range Resources Corp. may cooperate with the EPA as well, according to the Journal, if liability concerns can be addressed.

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HOW TO KEEP PROMISES TO EXPAND ENERGY PRODUCTION AND CREATE AMERICAN JOBS

Power Engineering - Online

01/23/2013

The following information was released by the Heritage Foundation:

President Barack Obama's energy policy during his first term runs counter to his campaign promise to expand energy production and create jobs during his second term. During his first term, he delayed, restricted, and regulated some energy sources while subsidizing, mandating, and giving special tax treatment to others. To keep his promise to increase energy production and create jobs, the President should shift from the paternalistic-and failed-energy policy of "Washington always knows best" to a free-market energy policy in which energy producers and consumers decide what works best. Such a policy would also relieve taxpayers of the burden of subsidizing the energy sector.

One of President Barack Obama's central promises during the presidential campaign was to produce more American jobs by expanding energy production. The problem is that the energy policy that he pursued during his first term is having the exact opposite effect. With one hand, President Obama used delaying tactics, restrictions, and regulations to limit some resources, while with the other, he doled out subsidies, mandates, and special tax treatments to micromanage the energy sector. As a result, energy production on federal lands is down, the coal industry is shrinking, renewables are dependent on government support, and a once promising nuclear industry is at a virtual standstill.

The one encouraging development is the expansion of oil and gas production on private lands as a result of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. However, this success emerged organically from the private marketplace, not from any specific government policy to promote these technologies and processes. To his credit, the President stayed out of the way and allowed the marketplace to work, although regulations proposed by the Obama Administration could change that.

Instead of attempting to control the energy sector from Washington, the President should learn from hydraulic fracturing and trust private-sector investment and innovation and consumer choice to drive American energy policy.

An energy policy that allows the private sector to meet America's energy needs will provide Americans with the most secure fuel choices at the lowest prices. The energy marketplace will work if the President and the Administration will just allow it. To achieve this, President Obama should open access to all domestic resources, reduce the bureaucratic regulatory overreach where the costs overwhelmingly outweigh the benefits, open international energy markets, and remove subsidies for all energy sources.

The following sections, summarized in Table 1, use statements by President Obama to introduce his positions on today's major energy policy issues. While energy policy is often more complex than can be captured in a single quote, each quote provides insight into how the President approached the issue during his first term. Each section also includes recommendations on how the President should shift his policies to keep his promises to expand energy production and create jobs in his second term.

Coal

So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can. It's just that it will bankrupt them because they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted.[1]

Recommendation. Congress should stop the needless regulatory avalanche that threatens to shrink the percentage of

coal in America's energy portfolio. This includes repealing, preventing, or freezing unnecessary regulations and empowering the states to pursue economic growth and environmental protection. Congress should also remove all preferential treatment for clean coal technologies.

Rationale. Coal has been shrinking as a part of America's electricity generation, in part because of cheaper natural gas, but also because of the federal government's heavy regulatory hand. New and proposed regulations are forcing existing coal-fired power plants to shut down prematurely and make construction of new coal-fired plants almost impossible. This is also adversely affecting coal mining operations.

Recommended Reading, Nicolas D. Loris, "The Assault on Coal and American Consumers,"[2]

Hydraulic Fracturing

We must proactively address concerns that have been raised regarding potential negative impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") practices. That is why the Administration is taking steps to address these concerns.[3]

Recommendation. Congress should prevent federal agencies from creating additional layers of red tape that would slow energy production and much-needed economic growth in the United States.

Rationale. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is a process that has helped to tap vast amounts of oil and natural gas and created hundreds of thousands of jobs. Cheap natural gas is saving consumers money and attracting many energy-intensive manufacturing facilities to locate to the United States. Although there has been much concern that fracking may contaminate drinking water through gas migration and through the use of chemical additives, the process has proved to be safe and has been successfully regulated at the state level for decades. Federal attempts to further regulate fracking are redundant and unnecessary.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Hydraulic Fracturing: Critical for Energy Production, Jobs, and Economic Growth."[4]

Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

Climate change is one of the biggest issues of this generation, and we have to meet this challenge by driving smart policies that lead to greater growth in clean energy generation and result in a range of economic and social benefits.[5]

Recommendation. Congress should prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon dioxide (CO2) and other greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act and should prevent regulators from using any agency or law to regulate the U.S. economy based on climate change findings.

Rationale. Because carbon-emitting fossil fuels produce 82 percent of the energy used in the United States, pricing and regulating carbon dioxide emissions would function as a massive energy tax that would hit consumers again and again, particularly harming low-income families, who spend a disproportionately higher percentage of their income on energy. While the earth is likely warming and manmade emissions are likely playing a minor role, the warming is not catastrophic. Further, a unilateral approach would do nothing to mitigate global temperatures, and developing countries with rapidly rising emissions, like China and India, will not curb their CO2 emissions.

Recommended Reading. David W. Kreutzer and Roy W. Spencer, "Carbon Dioxide Regulation and the American Conservation Ethic."[6]

EPA

You've got a president who is grateful for your [the EPA's] work and will stand with you every inch of the way as you carry out your mission to make sure that we've got a cleaner world.[7]

Recommendation. Congress should intervene to stop the EPA's regulatory overreach and to reform the major environmental laws that grant the EPA its power.

Rationale. Congress is spending more and accomplishing less to conserve America's environment and use the nation's natural resources wisely. The EPA's crushing regulations are artificially driving up the cost of energy, preventing the creation of jobs while providing little or no environmental benefit. The Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and National Environmental Policy Act are outdated, and unelected bureaucrats at the EPA have used them to apply a heavy regulatory hand. This was made abundantly clear when the agency rammed through regulations using the Clean Air Act to regulate CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions after Congress rejected capping CO2 emissions.

Recommended Reading. Jack Spencer, ed., Eight Principles of the American Conservation Ethic[8]

Energy Independence

That's why if we really want energy security and energy independence, we've got to start looking at how we use less oil, and use other energy sources that we can renew and that we can control, so we are not subject to the whims of what's happening in other countries.[9]

Recommendation. Policymakers' primary concern should be ensuring that the U.S. energy market has the ability to operate by introducing and expanding market-oriented policies that allow producers and consumers to balance supply and demand.

Rationale. Energy independence should not be the goal of energy policy. The goal should be to create an energy market that allows producers and consumers to respond to energy prices. Even so, it is important to recognize that the United States already has a high degree of energy independence. Most electricity consumed in the United States is produced domestically, with a small amount imported from friendly nations. The U.S. is more dependent on foreign countries for transportation fuels, but America's two single largest suppliers are Canada and Mexico.

However, oil is a global commodity. Whether the U.S. is a net importer or net exporter will not insulate Americans from price volatility any more than U.S. self-sufficiency in food production prevents supply problems in other parts of the world from affecting domestic U.S. food prices.

Although energy independence is a catchy sound bite, it should not be the policy goal. The biggest threat to America's reliable and affordable energy is government intervention through unnecessary regulations, subsidies, preferential tax treatment, and other market-distorting policies.

Recommended Reading. Stuart M. Butler and Kim R. Holmes, "Twelve Principles to Guide U.S. Energy Policy."[10]

Gas Prices

But we've also got to continue to figure out how we have efficient energy, because ultimately that's how we're going to reduce demand and that's what's going to keep gas prices lower.[11]

Recommendation. The government should not be involved in energy efficiency initiatives, which restrict consumer choice, drive up sticker prices, and have unintended negative consequences. Further, policymakers should remove barriers to oil exploration and production and reform the regulatory process. Environmental review and leasing processes should be reformed to make them more timely and reliable.

Rationale. Prices communicate essential information, and the best way for politicians to respond to higher gas prices is to allow the market to work. If oil prices rise, suppliers will explore and drill for more oil, and entrepreneurs will explore and invest in alternative fuel technologies. Consumers may switch to public transportation or purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles over the intermediate to longer term. Consumers do not need government-imposed fuel efficiency standards to make those choices.

The government should stop its paternalistic behavior of trying-and failing-to save consumers money with energy efficiency initiatives. Further, reforming the regulatory process and increasing oil supply by removing barriers to oil exploration and production will do more to lower prices and generate economic activity.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Ten Actions Congress Can Take to Lower Gas Prices."[12]

Nicolas D. Loris and Derrick Morgan, "Cap-and-Trade for Cars Means Higher Prices and Less Choice for Car Buyers."[13]

Renewable Energy

This is the ultimate solution to our energy challenge. It's not going to be a smooth, easy ride. Some of the clean-energy technologies that are discovered, they won't pan out. Some companies will fail. There's going to be experiments and research that take time. But as long as I'm President, I will not walk away from the promise of clean energy, because our future depends on it.[14]

Recommendation. Congress should create a framework that allows the environmental review and permitting process to proceed in a timely fashion. This should include devolving the permitting process for all energy projects to the states.

Rationale. Just as with all other energy sources and technologies, the federal government should not artificially prop up renewable sources of energy with subsidies and mandates, nor should they stifle these projects with burdensome regulation. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce identified 351 energy projects stalled by "not in my backyard" lawsuits, regulatory red tape, and endless lawsuits by environmental activists who want to quash these projects. Perhaps most surprising is the fact that almost 40 percent (140) of these stalled projects involve renewable energy.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Changing the Definition of "All of the Above' Energy Policy."[15]

Keystone XL Pipeline

I'm disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision, but it does not change my Administration's commitment to American-made energy that creates jobs and reduces our dependence on oil.[16]

Recommendation. Under its authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, Congress should accept the State Department's environmental assessment and approve construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Rationale. If President Obama had approved the permit for construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day would be coming from Canada to the Gulf Coast refineries as early as 2013. However, President Obama rejected the permit, claiming that the Department of State did not have the necessary information to recommend approval and that the decision was rushed. In reality, the State Department has already conducted a thorough, three-year environmental review with multiple comment periods. The State Department studied and addressed risks to soil, wetlands, water resources, vegetation, fish, wildlife, and endangered species. It concluded that construction of the pipeline would pose minimal environmental risk.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Unnecessary Keystone XL Pipeline Delay Obstructs Energy, Jobs."[17]

Nicolas D. Loris, "Keystone a Key Ingredient Missing from Obama's Economic Recovery Recipe."[18]

Energy Subsidies

Instead of taxpayer giveaways to an industry that's never been more profitable, we should be using that money to double-down on investments in clean energy technologies that have never been more promising-investments in wind power and solar power and biofuels; investments in fuel-efficient cars and trucks, and energy-efficient homes and buildings. That's the future.[19]

Recommendation. Congress should eschew new subsidies and remove existing subsidies for all energy sources.

Rationale. Energy subsidies waste taxpayer dollars, promote economic inefficiency, and create technological stagnation. Subsidizing energy sources merely shifts labor and capital away from economically viable projects that would actually help to grow the economy to politically popular projects. Furthermore, subsidies increase the incentive to lobby for more subsidies, thereby perpetuating technological mediocrity by removing the incentive to innovate, reduce costs, and compete in the marketplace. Energy industries should be freed from all government subsidies and special policy treatment that benefit certain types of energy production at the expense of others. This would compel companies to rely on innovation and efficiency, not American taxpayers, to remain competitive and thrive in the free market.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "No More Energy Subsidies: Prevent the New, Repeal the Old."[20]

Nicolas D. Loris and Curtis Dubay, "What's an Oil Subsidy?"[21]

Renewable Fuels Standard

Biofuels are an important part of reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and creating jobs here at home. But supporting biofuels cannot be the role of government alone. That's why we're partnering with the private sector to speed development of next-generation biofuels that will help us continue to take steps towards energy independence and strengthen communities across our country.[22]

Recommendation. Congress should repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and eliminate targeted tax credits for all transportation fuels and technologies.

Rationale. If ethanol and advanced biofuels were economically viable alternatives for gasoline and diesel, the U.S. would not need to mandate their production and use. One example of the mandate's failure is a provision in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act the requires the production of 500 million gallons of ethanol in 2012 from cellulosic ethanol, primarily from non-food sources, such as wood chips, switch grass, or corn stover. To date, no such fuel has been produced because cellulosic ethanol is not commercially viable, and the EPA has fined refineries for not meeting the law's requirements. The EPA reduced the original goal for cellulosic biofuel production in 2012 to 8.65 million gallonsless than 2 percent of the original goal. The fact that cellulosic ethanol production is nowhere near providing industrial-scale quantities of fuel demonstrates the government's inability to determine what is commercially viable and beneficial for consumers. Further, the ethanol mandate in the RFS increases corn prices and food prices. This harms consumers and distorts the domestic and international commodity markets.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Two Cheers for Ethanol Subsidies Expiring-but Costly Mandate Remains."[23]

Nuclear Energy

To meet our growing energy needs and prevent the worst consequences of climate change, we need to increase our supply of nuclear power and today's announcement [on the loan guarantee to new Georgia reactors] helps to move us down that path.[24]

Recommendation. The U.S. needs a market-based nuclear energy policy. This begins with a nuclear waste policy that gives utilities and other waste producers the primary responsibility for waste management. The nation also needs a regulator that can issue permits for new plants on a predictable basis at a reasonable cost and that is capable of regulating multiple types of reactors and other industrial facilities such as used fuel treatment plants.

Rationale. The nation's 104 operating nuclear power reactors provide 19 percent of U.S. electricity consumption. These plants operate safely, cleanly, and very affordably. The technology should be expanded consistent with market demand.

Today, five reactors are under construction and 10 applicants are seeking permits for new plants. Yet beyond the five reactors under construction, very little else is moving forward because America's obsolete nuclear energy policy has become a major impediment. The greatest hurdle for American nuclear power remains a broken nuclear waste policy. The common thread of successful nuclear waste management regimes throughout the world is that waste producers are responsible for waste management. The U.S. government needs to get out of the nuclear energy business. Today, the U.S. Department of Energy is too involved in determining which technologies move forward, and Congress is to too quick to mitigate the problems with current policy by offering subsidies.

Recommended Reading. Jack Spencer, "Blue Ribbon Commission on Nuclear Waste: Missing Opportunity for Lasting Reform." [25]

Jack Spencer and Nicolas D. Loris, "A Big Future for Small Nuclear Reactors?"[26]

Yucca Mountain

We're done with Yucca. We need to be looking at other alternatives.

-Carol Browner, top energy advisor for the Obama Administration[27]

Recommendation. The Administration should immediately restart the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of the Yucca Mountain permit. If the commission approves the permit, the permit should be transferred to a Nevada-based entity that can then negotiate directly with the nuclear industry on what, if anything, to do to move the project forward.

Rationale. A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain could be a critical piece of America's nuclear waste policy. Not only has the nation spent approximately \$15 billion on the repository, but no technical or scientific evidence has been produced to merit its termination. Yet without proposing any backup plan, President Obama terminated it, despite the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, which makes Yucca the site for the nation's waste repository. This has created significant regulatory uncertainty in the nuclear industry and has all but stopped progress on new plant permits. A market-based approach would help to determine the real value of the Yucca Mountain repository and create the conditions in which it could move forward.

Recommended Reading. Jack Spencer, "Yucca Mountain and Nuclear Waste Policy: A New Beginning?"[28]

Federal Lands Production

We have increased oil production to the highest levels in 16 years.

Natural gas production is the highest it's been in decades. We have seen increases in coal production and coal

employment. But what I've also said is we can't just produce traditional sources of energy. We've also got to look to the future.[29]

Recommendation. Congress should open America's federal waters and all non-wilderness, non-monument federal lands to energy development and expand state permitting to develop those resources.

Rationale. Although oil and gas production has increased on private and state lands[30] energy production decreased 13 percent on federal lands from fiscal year (FY) 2010 to FY 2011. Allowing access for exploration and creating an efficient regulatory process that allows energy projects to move forward in a timely manner would increase revenue through more royalties, leases, and rent and would create jobs while lowering energy prices in the process. These are sensible policy ideas even without a debt crisis, but in the current fiscal climate, this is a no-brainer.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Energy Exploration Would Create Jobs and Raise Revenue Without Raising Taxes."[31]

Free Trade and Energy Markets

The way we're going to create jobs here is not just to change our tax code but also to double our exports. And we are on pace to double our exports, one of the commitments I made when I was president.[32]

Recommendation. Open access to energy markets by approving export terminal permit applications in a timely manner and remove the restrictions that prevent exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries without free trade agreements with the United States. Further, the federal government should allow imports to reach the U.S. market without delay or market distortion.

Rationale. Given the private sector's desire to export natural gas, coal, and refined petroleum products, energy exports could play a critical role in reaching President Obama's goal of doubling exports, as dubious as that goal may be. Exporting energy would provide a huge boon to the U.S. economy because it would expand market opportunities for American companies and the higher prices would incentivize more exploration and production, offsetting some of the price increase. Providing other countries with cheaper energy would not only lower the prices of imports, but also promote economic development in those countries, enabling them to import more American goods.

Further, the federal government should not prevent other countries from providing Americans with affordable, reliable energy, as it has done by blocking the Keystone XL Pipeline and by levying a tariff on imported ethanol.

Finally, as the historical champion of free trade, the U.S. should initiate and approve more free trade agreements. Open markets are consistent with the public interest because they attract foreign investment and ease energy exports.

Conclusion

America's greatest energy success during President Obama's first term was the boom in oil and natural gas production on private and state-owned lands. This energy revolution was not the result of any specific federal policy, but rather emerged organically from the private marketplace. The President deserves credit for staying out of the way.

Applying this same approach to other energy sources, technologies will yield similar outcomes. It will allow them to succeed or fail on their own merits. The President and Congress should begin with opening federal lands to energy development, reducing overreaching and punitive regulations, allowing free trade in energy and related technologies, and removing subsidies for all energy sources and technologies. Such a framework would enable President Obama to keep his campaign promise to create jobs by expanding America's energy production.

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Chesapeake Opens Drill Site to EPA WRKO-AM - Online

01/23/2013

Chesapeake Energy agreed to let the EPA conduct extensive tests at one of its natural-gas drilling sites as part of a study into the impact of hydraulic fracturing on water supplies.

Sir David Attenborough, Naturalist And Filmmaker, Calls Humanity 'A Plague On The Earth' Huffington Post, The

01/23/2013

Sir David Attenborough, the famed British naturalist and television presenter, has some harsh words for humanity.

"We are a plague on the Earth," Attenborough told the Radio Times, as reported by the Telegraph. "It's coming home to roost over the next 50 years or so."

Attenborough went on to say that both climate change and "sheer space" were looming problems for humanity.

"Either we limit our population growth or the natural world will do it for us, and the natural world is doing it for us right now," he said.

Sir David is not the only naturalist who has warned of population growth outstripping resources. Paul Ehrlich, the president of the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford University and author of "The Population Bomb" (Sierra Club-Ballantine, 1968) has long used language similar to Attenborough's. And in 2011, an analysis of species loss suggested that humans are beginning to cause a mass extinction on the order of the one that killed the dinosaurs.

When asked about Attenborough's comments on humanity as its own scourge, Ehrlich told LiveScience he "completely agree[d], as does every other scientist who understands the situation." [Top 10 Ways to Destroy Earth]

Even so, that doesn't mean forceful measures must be taken. "Government propaganda, taxes, giving every sexually active human being access to modern contraception and backup abortion, and, especially, giving women absolutely equal rights and opportunities with men might very well get the global population shrinkage required if a collapse is to be avoided," Ehrlich said.

In fact, providing free, reliable birth control to women could prevent between 41 percent and 71 percent of abortions in the United States, according to a study detailed in the Oct. 4, 2012, issue of the journal Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Other scientists also agreed to some extent with the heart of Attenborough's message.

"It's clear that increasing population growth makes some of our biggest environmental challenges harder to solve, not easier," said from Jerry Karnas, population campaign director for the Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson, Ariz.

Karnas added, however, "What's needed is not population control but a real emphasis on reproductive rights, women's empowerment, universal access to birth control and education, so more freedom for folks to make better, more informed family planning choices."

And population numbers would matter less for the planet's health if clean renewable energy were widely adopted as well as planning laws, he told LiveScience during an interview.

Attenborough is famous for his "Life on Earth" series of wildlife documentaries, among other nature programming. In 2009, he became a patron of the Optimum Population Trust, a group that advocates voluntary population limitation. At the time, he released a statement saying, "I've seen wildlife under mounting human pressure all over the world and it's not just from human economy or technology — behind every threat is the frightening explosion in human numbers."

Earth's population reached 7 billion people on or around Oct. 31, 2011, according to United Nations estimates.

LiveScience Staff Writer Tia Ghose contributed reporting to this article.

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Top 10 Craziest Environmental Ideas

Crowded Planet: 7 (Billion) Population Milestones

End of the World? Top Doomsday Fears

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Gisele Bündchen

Although she may be one of the most beautiful women in the world, Gisele Bündchen is much more than just a pretty face. Named the 2011 Greenest International Celebrity of the Year, Bündchen devotes an extraordinary amount of her time and money to environmental causes. She has been a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Environment Program since 2009, works with the Brazilian movement A Drop Of Water (Gota D'água), and is involved in her hometown's Clean Water Project. And with the Amazon rainforest as one of her main passions, Bündchen co-hosted the Rainforest Alliance annual gala in 2009. For more information on how http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20261937,00.htm | target="_hplink">http://hometown's Clean Water Project stays eco-friendly, hometown's Clean Water Project

Video: Stunning Gisele Bundchen Helps the Environment

Gisele Bundchen stays fashionable to represent at a UN environmental summit in New York.

Robert Redford

Actor Robert Redford is a long time environmental advocate and a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council and founder of the Sundance Institute.

A long time blogger for HuffPost, Redford has written many pieces dissecting the impact of fracking on our planet, and the cozy relationship Big Oil has with the government.

Abra In a June blog piece, Redford wrote about energy subsidies and the Rio+20 conference. "We should not be subsidizing the destruction of our planet," Redford affirmed. "Fossil fuels are literally cooking our planet, polluting our air and draining our wallets. Why should we continue to reward companies to do that?"

Top 10 Fun Facts About Robert Redford

Learn 10 fun facts about actor Robert Redford. Redford played on the University of Colorado baseball team as a pitcher. He hates watching his own films. He was originally considered for the part of 'Michael Corleone' in 'The Godfather'. Redford founded the 'Sundance Film Festival'.

Adrian Grenier

Adrian Grenier may share good looks and acting chops with his Entourage alter-ego Vince, but the similarities end when it comes to extracurricular activities. Unlike the hard-partying Vince, Grenier is an activist who uses his fame to better impact the world around him. He created a TV show called "Alter Eco" for Discovery Channel's Planet Green, target="_hplink">the website SHFT.com, which promotes sustainable living through various multimedia, and supports eco-friendly fashion. In addition, he is an Oceana ambassador and works with charity:water to bring safe drinking water to third world countries. And did we mention that he won the Blue Sky award in 2008 for his environmental activism?

Entourage's Adrian Grenier Makes a Splash at Charity Event

Adrian Grenier, model and activist Lauren Bush, actress Kristin Chenoweth and a ballroom of glamorous New Yorkers show up at a December 2009 ball to support charity: water, an organization created to help bring clean drinking water to communities around the world.

Meryl Streep

While Streep is often considered one of the greatest screen sirens in history, her passion for environmental health is no act. In 1989, she created Mothers and Others, after reading a Natural Resources Defense Council report regarding pesticides in produce, according to USA Today. The group taught consumers about chemicals and toxins that have become commonplace for non-organic foods.

| Although target="_hplink">the organization shuttered in 2001, Streep's fight for environmental food awareness continues today. She is involved with Children's Health Environmental Coalition, a group that aims to protect children from toxins in water and food sources.

Top 10 Fun Facts About Meryl Streep

Learn 10 fun facts about actress Meryl Streep. While filming "Death Becomes Her," Meryl unintentionally scarred Goldie Hawn's cheek with a shovel. She inadvertently left her Academy Award for Kramer vs. Kramer" on the back of a toilet. Streep was raised in New Jersey and graduated from Vassar and the Yale School of Drama. As a teen, she was a cheerleader and homecoming queen.

Mark Ruffalo

A longtime green advocate, things got personal for Mark Ruffalo when hydraulic fracturing or "hydrofracturing" began to disrupt his hometown in upstate New York's Sullivan County. Ruffalo educated himself on the complex practice and has been using his fame to call attention to this destructive method of natural gas extraction. The A-list activist, who founded Water Defense, even landed himself on a U.S. terror watch list for organizing screenings of a documentary about natural gas drilling.

href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alison-rose-levy/northeast-f racking_b_968907.html" target="_hplink">seeks to fight

gas companies' positive spin about the arguably destructive practice. In one memorable forum, he challenged their claim that the extraction method would bring much-needed work to low-income communities. "You don't put everyone else in jeopardy just because its going to bring jobs," he said on the local news, "you don't bring your daughter to the red light district because you're having hard times."

Actor Mark Ruffalo on Hydraulic Fracturing

In an interview for All Terrain, actor Mark Ruffalo discusses his opposition to the natural gas extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

Alec Baldwin

Actor and activist Alec Baldwin, know for his role on the sitcom "30 Rock" and for movies like "The Cooler" and "The Departed," is a a staunch advocate for clean energy.

energy_n_946555.html" target="_hplink">Baldwin told HuffPost's Lynne Peeples, "The biggest problem in the antinuclear movement is the constant big lie, and the constant assertion, metronomic assertion, in the industry, that nuclear is clean power."

shr> He also tackled the oil industry, saying, "In fairness, the oil industry is ... a bunch of a very, very smart, very shrewd, very necessary, industrialists who did their part and did what was asked of them to get us to where we are now. Now it's time for them to step aside in terms of their primary role."

href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alec-baldwin/the-big-lie-of-clean-nucl_b_844161.html" target="_hplink">Baldwin blogged for HuffPost about nuclear power, writing, "Fukushima shows us that utility companies reap all of the benefits, while we assume all of the risks."

All Terrain: Alec Baldwin

Natalie Portman

Portman, a vegetarian since childhood, turned full-on vegan after reading Jonathan Safran Foer's book "Eating Animals" last year (although she went back to being a vegetarian during her pregnancy). She blogged on The Huffington Post, "The human cost of factory farming -- both the compromised welfare of slaughterhouse workers and, even more, the environmental effects of the mass production of animals -- is staggering."

'She traveled to Rwanda to film a documentary about endangered gorillas, she's designed her own vegan shoes, and is now even sporting an eco-friendly engagement ring from husband Benjamin Millepied. Portman's passion for the environment began at a young age - she can even be seem dancing in a very...
'a href="http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/06/vintage_video_n .php" target=" hplink">environmental video as a World Patrol Kid.

Natalie Portman Quits Vegan Diet

Natalie Portman's pregnancy cravings take over as the star ditches her uber strict vegan diet for vegetarianism

Brad Pitt

Although he is not the family <a href="http://www.un.org/works/goingon/refugees/angelina_story".html"

target="_hplink">UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Brad Pitt is one of Hollywood's leading green men. The award-winning actor supports many different facets of green activism, namely animal rights, sustainable living, and green building. Pitt co-founded the "Make It Right" foundation, which rebuilds homes in Katrina-torn New Orleans using affordable eco-friendly technology.

bry He also hosted a PBS series focused on green design in 2006, and, together with Angelina Jolie, blink">blink">blink">blink">blink million to the African Wildlife Sanctuary, says MNN.

Kanye and Rihanna Join Brad Pitt to Help the "Make It Right" Foundation

Rihanna, Kanye West, Snoop Dogg and Cheryl Crow join Brad Pitt to help the "Make it Right" foundation raise vital funds for the completion of 150 environmentally friendly homes for victims of 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

George Clooney

When it comes to green activism, George Clooney doesn't mess around. "You don't want to be a spokesperson unless you are absolutely committed to a cause," the actor said in an interview with TIME magazine. And according to his own logic, Clooney is a total environmental buff. MSN reported that after his role in Syriana, Clooney helped launch Oil Change, a campaign to diminish America's oil dependence. He is also a major human rights activist, protesting in favor of aid for Sudan and Darfur, and even going so far as to get arrested at a protest in March 2012. Clooney drew a parallel between human rights issues and climate disasters in 2010, when he asked Today Show's Ann Curry "If you knew a tsunami, or Katrina or a Haiti earthquake was coming, what would you do to save people?" The rugged actor also tries to stay green in his everyday life. According to MSN, he drives two electric cars, and was the cover photo for Vanity Fair's first green issue.

George Clooney Arrested

Actor George Clooney has been arrested following a protest outside the Sudanese embassy in Washington DC.

Leonardo Dicaprio

DiCaprio is a long-standing environmentalist, who sits on the boards of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Global Green USA. He has created target="_hplink">the environmental documentary "The 11th Hour," where he said, "It's clear humans have had a devastating impact on our planet's ecological web of life. Because we've waited, because we've turned our backs on nature's warning signs, and because our political and corporate leaders have consistently ignored the overwhelming scientific evidence, the challenges we face are that much more difficult. We are in the environmental age whether we like it or not."
br> And just this winter, DiCaprio made headlines for surviving a plane scare in order to get to a summit on saving the world's tigers donating \$1 million to the World Wildlife Fund.

Top 10 Fun Facts About Leonardo DiCaprio

Learn 10 fun facts about actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Originally, Leo's agent wanted him to change his name to Lenny Williams. He revealed he has OCD. He can speak some German. He was named Leonardo after kicking his mom in the womb, while she stared at Leonardo DaVinci's art. As a child, he was fired from the show 'Romper Room' for bad behavior.

Alicia Silverstone

Once known as the archetypical valley girl Cher in the movie "Clueless," Alicia Silverstone now makes her name as the face of vegan beauty. She wrote a diet book called "The Kind Diet" which she says "is about living your healthiest and happiest life to the fullest, while taking care of mama Earth at the same time." She also regularly updates her blog, The Kind Life, with vegan recipes, beauty tips, and other Earth-friendly finds from the celebrity fashionista. Silverstone recently created a cyber-windstorm for pre-chewing her son Bear Blu's food. "It's natural," she defended herself to Entertainment Tonight.

Alicia Silverstone's Vegan Food Ideas

Alicia Silverstone shares some of the simple, healthy, delicious meals from The Kind Diet.

Sting and Trudie Styler

In 1989, Sting and his wife, Trudie Styler, formed the Rainforest Foundation Fund to preserve rainforests and protect indigenous populations within them. "Sting and I founded the Rainforest Fund after seeing with our own eyes the destruction of one of the world's most precious resources," Styler was quoted as saying in a HuffPost article. "If we all take action, we can help save the planet and prevent further harm to the rainforests and indigenous people who live there."

*a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/trudie-styler/why-sting-a nd-i-set-up-th_b_98252.html" target="_hplink">Styler blogged for HuffPost that she and Sting founded the Rainforest Foundation Fund after flying over the Amazon and meeting people on the ground there. She said, at first, "Sting was criticized for daring to be a rock star who wanted to change the world." But she says their group has worked to successfully protect over 115,000 square kilometers of rainforest.

Biodynamic Wine with Trudie Styler

Trudie Styler discusses biodynamic wine.

Daryl Hannah

Actress Daryl Hannah, known for films such as "Blade Runner" and "Splash," has lent her name to several environmental causes.

Virginia and was arrested while protesting mountaintop removal coal mining. She wrote for HuffPost, "I was honored to be joining an inspiringly brave group of concerned Americans."

She was <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/30/daryl-hannah-a rrested-keystone-protest_n_942072.html"

target="_hplink">one of over 1,200 people arrested in August in front of the White House as part of a Keystone XL pipeline protest.

Daryl Hannah Arrested For Environmental Protest

Actress Daryl Hannah's arrest sparks conversation about a planned oil pipeline in Canada.

Pierce Brosnan

This UNICEF ambassador is known in Hollywood for his Earth-friendly ways. While Brosnan stays environmentally aware on a daily basis by driving a hybrid car, according to Hello! Magazine, he has advocated for sustainable government legislation as well as publicized himself as a major supporter of environmental charities.

He's protested natural gas facilities near his Malibu home, and according to Treehugger.com, spoken in public forums in support of the EPA and green legislation. In 1997 he was given an Environmental Leadership Award by Mikhail Gorbachev, and in 2008 Brosnan and his wife Keely Shaye Smith were inducted into the Environmental Hall of Fame.

Top 10 Fun Facts About Pierce Brosnan

Learn 10 fun facts about actor Pierce Brosnan. He once worked in the circus as a professional fire-eater. He is claustrophobic. Pierce is an avid supporter of same-sex marriage and gay adoption. Pierce was nicknamed 'Colonel Chunky' by the cast of 'Mamma Mia!'.

Woody Harrelson

Actor Woody Harrelson has reportedly been a vegan for nearly 25 years. In fact, for the 2009 film "Zombieland," Harrelson ate a special vegan Twinkie instead of the real thing.

'br> Harrelson has also called for greater activism against oil. Speaking at a media and technology conference in Amsterdam in 2007, Harrelson said, "Certainly (oil companies) just want to get as much out of the ground and make as much money as possible before they transition into anything else. So I still think it's time for some strong activism, especially as it relates to our dependency on oil."

Woody Harrelson Talks Rampart Transformation

The veteran actor opens up about being a jerk and dropping weight to play a corrupt LAPD cop. Costars Robin Wright and Ben Foster also weigh in.

Glenn Close

According to the Mother Nature Network, Glenn Close is a major puppy activist. She works with not one, but two organizations devoted to helping her canine companions. Close and husband David Shaw founded Fetchdog.com, an

online shopping site for doggie treats which donates a portion of the sales to dog related charities. In addition, Oprah.com reported that Close is also a staunch supporter of Puppies Behind Bars, a program that helps service dogs and prisoners have a symbiotic, educational relationship. Close also supports non-canine causes. In 2009, target="_hplink">the ocean conservation group Oceana honored her at their annual Sea Change Summer party, noting the actress's dedication to ocean conservation.

One Mind For Research Interview With Glenn Close

Glenn Close discusses the impact of Stigma on those with Mental Health disorders.

Colin Firth

Who would've thought Mr. Darcy could be a shopkeeper? Colin Firth has set up various eco-themed shops in Britain. He opened two fair trade cafes called Progreso (at least one of which closed in 2010), and an ecological store called Eco in Chiswick, offering ethical, fair trade goods, as well as expert energy efficiency advice for homeowners. As an Oxfam's Make Trade Fair campaign supporter, Colin Firth raises awareness on behalf of Ethopian coffee growers, and lobbies for fair trade in the coffee markets. According to The Times, Firth said that "rather than being a luvvie with a lofty opinion preaching to people, I prefer to do things, to get involved, put my money where my mouth is and learn along the way."

The Life and Career of Colin Firth

No lady can resist this Academy Award Winning Brit's sensitivity and charm. Join WatchMojo as we take a look at the career of Colin Firth.

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Report on EPA and Range Resources omitted key facts Houston Chronicle - Online

01/23/2013

Public deserves to know the truth about fracking By U.S. Rep. Pete Olson | January 22, 2013

A Jan. 16 Associated Press report on the Environmental Protection Agency's handling of a recent water contamination case allegedly involving the hydraulic fracturing process completely misrepresents the facts ("EPA changed course after gas company protested," chron.com.) The story falls well short of the AP's claim to journalistic standards.

The story fails to note the thorough review conducted by the Texas Railroad Commission, which exonerated Range Resources, the company accused by the EPA of contaminating well water in Weatherford, Texas, from any wrongdoing in the Lipsky case. The TRRC unanimously agreed with the conclusions of staff hearing examiners and expert consultants that the gas in the water wells did not come from fracking operations in the Barnett Shale, but more likely came from the much shallower Strawn geological formation when the water wells were dug. TRRC hearings revealed that gas contamination in water wells in Parker County has occurred since at least 2003, and the two water wells in question likely had gas contamination before Range Resources began drilling in 2009. Testimony also revealed that EPA staff members expressed doubt that the company could have caused or contributed to the alleged endangerment. These facts were absent from the AP article.

It seems the AP article blatantly omits the facts in the case to boost claims from a "confidential report" that the AP supposedly possesses. The fact is that EPA Region VI usurped state authority and issued an Emergency Endangerment Order against Range Resources without notice or opportunity for a hearing. Although TRRC was investigating the claim, EPA went forward with the order, without citing any source of contamination or demonstrating an imminent public threat.

It was clear during TRRC's hearing that EPA failed to conduct a comprehensive study. EPA ignored other possible migration pathways, including the shallower, nonproducing formation that most experts believed was the actual source of natural gas in the wells. TRRC examiners also found fault with the "fingerprinting" tests that EPA conducted, which would have identified the formation where the gas originated. EPA incorrectly relied solely on the carbon fingerprint, when the appropriate geochemical parameters for fingerprinting were nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

The AP article presents a one-sided argument by quoting only one professor at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, who claims the chemical makeup of gas from the Strawn formation and the Barnett Shale is indistinguishable. However, as TRRC correctly noted, published literature confirms that Strawn formation gas has a higher nitrogen and lower carbon dioxide concentration than Barnett Shale gas.

To imply that the EPA dropped its case because Range Resources threatened to withdraw its involvement in a fracking study is ludicrous and not supported by facts. The EPA filed suit in U.S. District Court, seeking both injunctive relief and monetary damages, when Range Resources chose not to fully comply with the order. Upon review of sworn testimony from EPA staff, the district court issued a stay. In its decision, the Court questioned the notion that the EPA could enforce the emergency order and obtain civil penalties from Range Resources without proving the company caused any contamination or giving the company an opportunity to contest EPA's conclusions. Realizing that the federal court would eventually side with Range Resources, EPA dropped the emergency order.

The AP has a duty to give the public accurate and balanced information that includes all of the facts. The debate on the safety of hydraulic fracturing, a technological breakthrough that is revolutionizing our energy supply and providing energy security, is critically important. The public deserves the truth and an organization like the AP should live up to its reputation of honest reporting. Excluding relevant facts to claim that EPA dropped its case because the company

threatened to withhold cooperation with a national study is dishonest. This article is a blatant disservice to the public on an important national issue.

Olson, a Republican who represents Texas' 22nd U.S. House District, is a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee and sits on the Energy & Power Subcommittee.

APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region Utility Products Magazine - Online

01/23/2013

AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP ("APGI-0") RPC INC ("RES-N") - APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For - Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region

American Power Group Corporation announced that its subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc. ("APG"), has received purchase orders totaling \$1.5 million from Cudd Energy Services to upgrade and convert diesel pumps used for hydraulic fracturing to APG's Turbocharged Natural Gas(TM) Dual Fuel System. APG will provide full turnkey installation including engineering services under an EPA Test Exemption while completing the EPA Memo 1A Testing and Compliance process, similar to the procedure APG completed in June 2012 for a different high-horsepower non-road compression ignition engine family. APG expects the installations to be completed during the next two calendar quarters in conjunction with the scheduled completion of the Memo 1A Testing.

Cudd Energy Services (www.cudd.com), a subsidiary of RPC Inc., is an oilfield service company offering a broad range of technical and specialized oilfield services to companies engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas worldwide.

Prometheus Energy (www.prometheusenergy.com) will manage the onsite supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as the primary natural gas fuel source. Prometheus Energy provides turnkey fuel solutions that enable oilfield and other industrial users of diesel and other crude-derived fuels to use secure domestic LNG, reducing fuel cost and emissions. The company is vertically integrated from LNG production, distribution and logistics to onsite storage and vaporization.

Lyle Jensen, CEO of American Power Group, stated, "We are extremely pleased that Cudd Energy Services has selected APG's dual fuel technology for the conversion of a hydraulic fracturing rig in the Marcellus Shale region. This marks our first full hydraulic fracturing rig conversion and our third major customer installation this year in the Marcellus Shale. APG's dual fuel system gives the oil and gas service contractor the maximum flexibility to utilize either liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG), pipeline gas, or qualified well-head gas as a natural gas fuel source to displace diesel for a significant net fuel savings and lower emissions. We are now seeing a dramatic increase in interest across the industry for the use of APG's dual fuel conversion technology in both drilling and hydraulic fracturing applications."

Mr. Jensen further added, "This installation will include our newly developed 'Over Pressure Protection System,' a combined hardware and software solution designed to ensure the safe and reliable use of natural gas when variations in gas pressure occur. We believe that APG delivers the most sophisticated dual fuel solution at the lowest total cost of ownership in the industry."

About American Power Group Corporation

American Power Group's alternative energy subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc., provides a cost-effective patented Turbocharged Natural Gas(TM) conversion technology for vehicular, stationary and off-road mobile diesel engines. American Power Group's dual fuel technology is a unique non-invasive energy enhancement system that converts existing diesel engines into more efficient and environmentally friendly engines that have the flexibility to run on: (1) diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas; (2) diesel fuel and compressed natural gas; (3) diesel fuel and pipeline or well-head gas; and (4) diesel fuel and bio-methane, with the flexibility to return to 100% diesel fuel operation at any time. The proprietary technology seamlessly displaces up to 80% of the normal diesel fuel consumption with the average displacement ranging

from 40% to 65%. The energized fuel balance is maintained with a proprietary read-only electronic controller system ensuring the engines operate at original equipment manufacturers' specified temperatures and pressures. Installation on a wide variety of engine models and end-market applications require no engine modifications unlike the more expensive invasive fuel-injected systems in the market. See additional information at: www.americanpowergroupinc.com.

Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Opinions

With the exception of the historical information contained in this release, the matters described herein contain forwardlooking statements and opinions, including, but not limited to, statements relating to new markets, development and introduction of new products, and financial and operating projections. These forward-looking statements and opinions are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risk and uncertainties that may individually or mutually impact the matters herein, and cause actual results, events and performance to differ materially from such forward-looking statements and opinions. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, results of future operations, difficulties or delays in developing or introducing new products and keeping them on the market, the results of future research, lack of product demand and market acceptance for current and future products, adverse events, product changes, the effect of economic conditions, the impact of competitive products and pricing, governmental regulations with respect to emissions, including whether EPA approval will be obtained for future products and additional applications, the results of litigation, factors affecting the Company's future income and resulting ability to utilize its NOLs, and/or other factors, which are detailed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 and the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and opinions, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements and opinions that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. NYSE closing price for RES-N Date: 2013/01/18 Closing Price: 13.85

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AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP ("APGI-0") RPC INC ("RES-N") - APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For - Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region Electric Light and Power

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Different Rules for Plutocrats Huffington Post, The

01/23/2013

In feudal societies, the king and his barons lord over the serfs, whom devote their lives to toiling for their masters' gain. The serfs live by one harsh set of rules, and the lords live by another. A serf who steals from a lord would face a serious prison sentence or death, while a lord could simply buy off anyone he needed to convince of his innocence should he ever commit a crime. In that respect, the United States is one of the world's most true-to-life examples of a feudal system.

Twenty-six-year-old Reddit co-founder Aaron Swartz faced up to 35 years in federal prison for the "crime" of downloading academic files from the JSTOR database, with the intent of publicizing the research for anyone to have free of charge. In addition to his prison sentence, he faced up to \$1 million in fines. This didn't include any money that Swartz, a man of modest means, would have to raise to pay for his legal fees and court costs in a battle of attrition with the federal judicial system. After Swartz' suicide, his dad told the media his son "was killed by the government." The federal prosecutor, Steve Heymann, along with U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz, believed in punishing hackers to the fullest extent of the law and still relentlessly pursued despite knowing he was a suicide risk.

Contrast that with JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon, who was on the hot seat for gambling with and losing \$6 billion in other people's money in a high-risk trading scheme. Or with executives at HSBC, whom were found to have been laundering money for drug cartels and terrorists. Or with executives at UBS Bank, who pled guilty to rigging the LIBOR interest rate, needlessly bleeding millions of debtors dry on hefty student loan interest payments and mortgage payments. Both HSBC and UBS paid fines that amounted to several weeks of income for the banks. Jamie Dimon had his salary cut from \$23 million to \$11 million. Jail wasn't even considered for these titans of high finance, despite their open complicity in bilking millions of people out of their hard-earned money and aiding criminals.

While federal prosecutors sought to throw the book at a 26-year-old hacker who tried to distribute information for free, federal regulators are sitting on their thumbs when it comes to community drinking water supplies. The Obama EPA recently silenced their own report that detailed how hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, made groundwater supplies in Texas undrinkable once the oil and shale gas companies caught wind of it. After the fossil fuel industry threw enough of a fit, the EPA halted the investigation dead in its tracks.

The scales of Lady Justice have been tilted in favor of the corporate elite for decades now, regardless of which party is in power or the person in the White House. There are reforms ready to ease the harshness of federal prosecution of computer crimes, like Zoe Lofgren's "Aaron's Law." There is already legislation on the books to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act of 1937 that would break up the big banks. Countries like Iceland, Argentina and Germany have already taken criminal action against bankers that ruined economies and upended lives with their destructive greed. But the cold hard fact is that those laws won't be passed, and those bankers won't be arrested until we pressure our elected officials to do so. And if this current crop won't, then let's overrun the congressional midterms in 2014 and refuse to elect anyone running for office unless they vow to do so.

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What's the fuss about fracking? Fort Collins Coloradoan - Online, The

01/23/2013

As the discussion heats up, here's what you should know about Northern Colorado's hot topic.

Portable water tanks are lined near homes at a fracking site near Geleton in Weld County on March 7, 2012. / V. Richard Haro/Coloradoan library

Where to learn more about fracking

University of Colorado's Intermountain Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Project: http://www.oilandgasbmps.org/resources/fracing.php

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/hydraulicfracture/

Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission: http://bit.ly/107Rf94

Colorado Oil and Gas Association: www.coga.org/index.php/Hydraulic%20Fracturing

Western Resource Advocates: www.westernresourceadvocates.org/frackwater/

ProPublica: www.propublica.org/series/fracking

Examples of fracking in Northern Colorado

When Anadarko's Pinnacle 2-2HZ oil and gas well was fracked between Dacono and Interstate 25 in 2011, the company reported to FracFocus.com that it used 2.8 million gallons of water to fracture a formation about 7,600 feet underground. Thirty different ingredients were used, including 14 listed as proprietary, information about which is unavailable to the public.

When Prospect Energy fracked the Hearthfire #1 oil well just steps from Fort Collins city limits last October, it reported to FracFocus.com that it used about 111,000 gallons of water, fracking the 4,868 feet beneath the surface. Seven chemicals were used, including a surfactant composed of 4-nonylphenyl, methanol, polyoxyethylene and other substances; a biocide; a frac gel made of guar; and several other chemicals.

Facebook.com/coloradoan followers sound off

On Jan. 15, we asked: How do you feel about fracking in our area?

I think people should do their research on the effects of fraking before they jump to conclusions about the negative effects. Natalie Martin

Absolutely against it. The extraction process has been proven to be just dirty as coal burning and is toxic to humans and wildlife alike. Deb Hochhalter

A healthy community is critically important to me. That means good air, water and land. No one knows what is in the fracking fluid except the few who aren't telling us. Once it's in the ground water, it's too late to be prudent. Kathryn

Barrett

The Coloradoan is acting irresponsible in its reporting on fracking. Obviously pushing an agenda. This EVIL' fracking that you constantly report on creates tens of thousands of high paying, entry level jobs in Colorado.

Justin Wilkes

Thanks to fracking, the United States is tied with Russia to be the No. 1 producer of natural gas in the world and (may) be able to gain oil independence. There are no conclusive studies that say that fracking causes any problems right now, only speculation. What we as a country must decide is whether it is worth the potential problems with groundwater contamination and possible shallow tremors to continue using the process. Personally, I think it is (OK) as long as the oil companies work to improve the process and make water contamination less likely. Toby Self

When the Coloradoan asked Facebook fans last week what they consider the top issues Fort Collins faces, one issue rose above all the rest: Fracking.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the driving force behind nearly all oil and gas development in Colorado today, and the prime economic driver in Weld County. Advances in fracking technology have led to the Colorado oil and gas boom, making previously unreachable pockets of crude oil and natural gas economically lucrative to tap.

But as the industry pumps billions of dollars into the Colorado economy, oil and gas wells are coming closer to homes, public parks and schools, where some residents worry about what oil and gas development might mean for air and water quality, public health, property values and quality of life.

As the state is on the verge of implementing stricter oil and gas drilling regulations and the city of Fort Collins considers following Longmont in banning fracking within city limits, here's a look at some of the most common questions surrounding Northern Colorado's hot topic.

Common fracking questions

What is fracking?

Fracking is one of the most critical steps energy companies use to drill an oil and gas well. One of the final stages used in completing a well, fracking is a procedure used to crack open underground rock formations as a way to increase the flow of crude oil and natural gas to the surface. About 90 percent of all oil and gas wells are fracked today. The process is sometimes called hydrofracking or fracing.

How does fracking work?

First, an oil and gas well bore hole is drilled into the ground to a point underneath any groundwater aquifers used for drinking. The hole is lined with steel and cased in concrete to prevent chemicals from harming the groundwater. From there, a smaller hole is drilled an additional 5,000 feet or more beneath the surface to pockets of oil and gas. The smaller hole is lined with a steel casing and protected with cement.

Next, the casing is perforated around the oil-and-gas-bearing layers, often with explosives. Then, the fracking begins. Up to 5 million gallons of water, sand and chemicals are injected at high pressure into the well bore as a way to fracture the oil-and-gas-containing rock formations surrounding the holes created by the explosives. As the rock fractures, the cracks are propped open with sand, and the oil and gas begins to flow to the surface.

What are the economic benefits of fracking?

Because of fracking, the U.S. has a sufficient supply of natural gas for 110 years, and 7 billion barrels of oil are

considered recoverable within the country's borders, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The oil and gas industry was estimated to directly employ about 40,000 Coloradans in 2010 and supported about 107,000 jobs statewide, totaling about \$31 billion in economic output annually, according to a University of Colorado-Boulder study.

Locally, oil and gas severance taxes paid to local cities and counties based on the number of workers living there and the industry's local impact have been increasing dramatically. Between 2011 and 2012, severance tax payments Fort Collins received increased 28.6 percent, totaling \$131,551 in 2012, up from about \$20,000 in 2007. Weld County received nearly \$2.3 million in 2012, up from about \$219,000 in 2007.

The city of Fort Collins estimates that the oil and gas industry generates more than \$215,000 annually for the city.

What chemicals are in fracking fluids?

Chemicals used in each frack job vary. They usually include friction reducers, surfactants, gels, substances used to prop open cracks in the rock, radioactive tracers, antibacterial agents, corrosion inhibitors and other substances.

Some chemicals used for fracking are non-toxic, but others are considered toxic. For example, one chemical used to frack an Anadarko well in Weld County is used as an insecticide for crops and considered toxic by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

How do energy companies help protect groundwater from fracking fluids?

Every time a well is drilled, the portion of the bore hole that passes through underground aquifers is cased with steel and concrete, preventing fluids from penetrating the bore hole and leaching into groundwater supplies.

Has fracking been found to contaminate groundwater supplies?

A 2011 Duke University study found systematic evidence of drinking water contamination associated with natural gas extraction in Pennsylvania.

The Associated Press reported on Jan. 16 that the EPA had evidence a Texas natural gas driller had contaminated a suburban water well near Fort Worth, but set aside evidence the driller had contaminated the water well after the driller threatened to refuse to cooperate in an EPA study about the impacts of fracking.

In 2011, the EPA studied water well contamination from energy development in Pavillion, Wyo., concluding that the contamination was linked to nearby natural gas extraction. The Associated Press reported that the oil and gas industry and Republican leaders attacked the study, and the agency decided to do more testing. The study is currently open for public comment.

Does fracking harm Colorados air quality?

As fluids are removed from an oil and gas well that has just been fracked, large quantities of volatile organic compounds, methane, and air toxins such as benzene are produced, according to CU-Boulder's Intermountain Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Project. Those gases are often vented or flared, leading to regional air quality problems.

Industry efforts to use green completions aim to contain vented gas. Studies conducted by the Colorado School of Public Health and CU-Boulder suggest that air quality has been affected by pollutants traced to oil and gas wells and fracking.

Is fracking exempt from environmental laws?

Yes. The 2005 Energy Policy Act exempted hydraulic fracturing from regulation by the U.S. Environmental Protect Agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

How close is fracking coming to Fort Collins?

Fracking has occurred as recently as October in the Fort Collins oil field on the northern edge of the city in and around the Hearthfire subdivision. Fracking occurs more frequently in Weld County near Windsor, Ault and Severance.

Does fracking cause earthquakes?

A 2012 University of Texas-Austin study connected oil and gas wastewater injection wells to small earthquakes in Texas. Deep underground fluid injection wells have been found to to cause earthquakes in Colorado, but data is inconclusive about wether injection of fracking fluids could cause earthquakes here. Despite Northern Colorado being one of the most heavily drilled and fracked places in the West, earthquakes of any magnitude are extremely rare here.

Sources: FracFocus.com; Colorado Oil and Gas Association; Intermountain Oil and Gas BMP Project at the University of Colorado Law School, U.S. Geological Survey, Colorado Geological Survey, University of Texas, and Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

What the science says

A handful of studies have been conducted over the last decade on how oil and gas drilling, fracking and production affect air and water quality and public health. This is a look at what that science says.

University of Colorado Boulder/NOAA, 2013: Study co-authored by chemist Jessica Gilman looked at 550 air samples taken in Northern Colorado in 2011 and found that oil and gas operations are emitting the building blocks of winter ozone pollution into air over Weld County and Fort Collins. Average propane levels in Fort Collins air were found to be higher than those in Houston.

University of Texas-Austin, 2012: Study by UT senior research scientist Cliff Frohlich showed that most recent earthquakes in the Barnett Shale region of North Texas occur within a few miles of injection wells used for the disposal of fracking waste. The study suggested a possible association between injection and earthquakes, but it did not prove there is a connection.

Cornell University, 2011: Study by Robert Howarth, Renee Santoro and Anthony Ingraffea examined the greenhouse footprint of natural gas extracted using fracking. It showed that high methane emissions occur at the time wells are being fracked, suggesting that greenhouse gas emissions from shale-gas extraction via fracking in Pennsylvania are greater than those of oil and gas extraction using older technology. Howarth, a Cornell evolutionary biologist, and Ingraffea, a Cornell environmental engineer, are controversial in part because, in the journal Nature, they advocated for an end to all fracking operations because leaking methane poses too great a climate change risk.

Duke University, 2011: Study co-authored by Stephen G. Osborn, Robert Jackson and others documented systematic evidence of methane contamination of drinking water associated with natural gas extraction in the Marcellus shale region of Pennsylvania.

Colorado School of Public Health, 2012: Researcher Lisa McKenzie found that people living near natural gas wells being fracked are exposed to brief periods of pollution leading to many different health effects, while also facing a possible

cancer risk because of benzene exposure. The study, conducted for Garfield County, is discredited by the oil and gas industry because of a lack of data and context and because the county declined to finalize the study.

Endocrine Disruption Exchange, 2011: Study co-authored by Theo Colborn of Paonia compiled a list of 632 chemicals used to extract natural gas. Of the 353 chemicals studied for health effects, more than 75 percent have effects on skin, eyes and the gastrointestinal system. About half could affect the nervous, immune and cardiovascular systems.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Pavillion, Wyo., 2011: Following complaints about contamination of nearby domestic water wells, the EPA collected data from two deep monitoring wells near a natural gas field in Wyoming and discovered that ground water in an underlying aquifer contains compounds likely associated with oil and gas operations, including fracking. The U.S. Geological Survey is also monitoring the water there. The EPA's study is open for public comment through Sept. 2013.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2004: EPA concluded that fracking used in coalbed methane wells does not pose a significant threat to groundwater and does not need to be regulated.

What's next: The EPA, Colorado State University and the state of Colorado are either conducting work or about to begin work on studies addressing the environmental impacts of oil and gas development, including fracking.

The state announced this month that it will launch a study of how emissions from oil and gas operations on the Front Range affect air quality. CSU is conducting a similar three-year study in Garfield County. The EPA is working on a major study about how fracking impacts drinking water, with results expected in 2014.

BLOG: Power Play - Energy Blog: Report: Chesapeake to help EPA with hydraulic fracturing study
Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, OK
Jay Marks
01/23/2013

Jan. 23--Chesapeake Energy Corp. will let the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conduct extensive tests at one of its well sites to determine if hydraulic fracturing is safe, the Wall Street Journal reported [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB1000142412788732385490457826017 3099118476.html?ru=yahoo&mod=yahoo_hs] Wednesday.

The process, commonly known as fracking [http://www.hydraulicfracturing.com/Pages/information.aspx], is used to extract oil and natural gas from dense rock like shale, but it has been dogged by concerns that it contaminates drinking water.

Chesapeake, one of the nation's leading oil and gas producers, will allow the EPA to sample water at one of its well sites before and after the well is drilled, an Obama administration official told the Journal.

A Chesapeake spokesman declined to comment on the report Wednesday night.

Texas-based Range Resources Corp [http://www.rangeresources.com/]. may cooperate with the EPA as well, according to the Journal, if liability concerns can be addressed.

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Chesapeake to Host EPA In Study of Fracking Risk Wall Street Journal - Online

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...of its drilling sites as part of an investigation into the safety of hydraulic fracturing, an administration official said. The testing, which will involve water sampling before and after drilling takes place, will serve as a cornerstone of a yearslong EPA study to determine whether the process known as fracking poses a risk to water supplies. Another natural gas company, Range Resources Corp., also may allow the EPA to work at one of its drilling sites, although an agreement has been held...